

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SWALWELL of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IS CRUCIAL TO REOPEN GOVERNMENT'S DOORS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has been shut down for 15 days. For 15 days, the President and Senate Democrats have made very few attempts to work with the House to reopen the government's doors. Washington Democrats have not been willing to meaningfully negotiate with House Republicans who voted four times to avoid the fiscal crisis.

Time is ticking. The people of South Carolina's Second Congressional District are hurting due to Washington Democrats' inability to engage in the legislative process. On behalf of the Savannah River Site employee in Aiken who is at risk of additional cuts to his hardworking paycheck, and the young family in Columbia who has been denied access to a medical trial that could potentially save their daughter's life, we should reopen the government, which promotes jobs.

House Republicans understand the risk at stake. That is why we support commonsense proposals that will avoid national default and reopen the government's doors.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

STAND UP TO THE EXTREMISTS

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise personally ashamed at the political sideshow in front of the White House perpetrated by Ms. Palin and Senator CRUZ and his congressional allies. For Members to protest against the consequences of a shutdown they, themselves, caused is the height of hypocrisy. The truth is we could pass a clean continuing resolution today and get our government back to work.

I was outraged by some of the imagery we saw from the Tea Partiers who were rallying in front of the White House. Calling for the President's impeachment not a year after his reelection by a large majority of the American people and continued lies about the President's religion, including one participant saying, Put the Quran down, have no place in civil discourse.

But I was especially disturbed by the waving of the Confederate flag, a symbol of racial oppression, being waved at our first African-American President.

I call on my colleagues to condemn this hateful rhetoric and to renounce these fringe voices within their coalition.

This is a shameful display of Members on the other side of the aisle, and they ought to stand up—the majority—to the extremists in their own party, as we have with our own party, and stop trying to hold the government and full faith and credit of the United States Government hostage.

CONFEDERATE FLAG RALLY

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, this shutdown is shining a light and showing the world some of the extreme members of the Tea Party. This weekend, Tea Party Senators TED CRUZ and MIKE LEE led a rally on the National Mall where one of their speakers, Freedom Watch founder Larry Klayman, called on President Obama to "leave town, put the Quran down, and come out with your hands up."

The rally moved to the White House where Tea Partiers waved the Confederate flag in front of the President's home. The picture is unnerving; it is despicable; and it is not the same flag that we just pledged allegiance to in this House. It does not depict an America whose seal reads: "E Pluribus Unum"—"Out of many, one."

To date, neither Senator nor any member of the Tea Party Caucus in this House has publicly denounced these ugly, disgusting comments toward our President. I respectfully ask my friends across the aisle to do so.

We may disagree on many things in this Chamber, but I sincerely believe that no one in the Tea Party Caucus believes that this display outside the President's house is acceptable. Condemn this behavior. If you don't and you let it go, you are condoning it.

"Out of many, one"—"E Pluribus Unum." As one America, let's denounce this. It is time to come together.

LET'S DEAL WITH OUR DEBT AND OUR DEFICIT

(Mr. BERA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, day No. 15.

Today is day No. 15 of the government shutdown. We are less than 48 hours away from defaulting on our bills. We have never done that in the history of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, if we don't pay our bills, that would be reckless behavior and that would be irresponsible.

But we are seeing some progress.

First, it seems like both the House and the Senate have agreed to open up government until January 15. Let's make that happen.

Second, it seems like both the House and the Senate agree to lift the debt ceiling until February 7. Let's make that happen.

But let's do step number three, which says, let's set a budget process in place that negotiates a budget that starts to deal with our debt and our deficit so we can get out of this crisis mode and start getting about the business of creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we are close. Let's get this done for the American people.

LET'S OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln offered these words:

The rule of a minority as a permanent arrangement is wholly inadmissible so that rejecting the minority principle, anarchy or despotism in some form is all that is left.

I think we have come to the point of recognizing that it is important to represent the majority of Americans, the majority of veterans, who in some short order may be questioning whether or not their veterans or their disability check or their family's SSI or their mother's Social Security will come in an appropriate time.

The Secretary of the Veterans Administration already said that he has